

The LAST SHIFT.

MODEST PROPOSAL:

BEING A
Sequel to the Advertisement of June the 4th.

To which is annexed,

A LETTER from the Author of *Truth against Craft*, earnestly recommending the Case of the unhappy Sufferer, to the Consideration of the Public.



O all Men to whom these Presents shall come,
greeting,
Since Death is so certain, and Time is so fleeting,
The Flower of Chivalry doth here humbly pre-
pose,
To contract, to agree, and make Peace with his Enemy
Of Wangling quite weary, of Lying and Swearing, O
Oppress'd with his Sins, and their Load scarcely bearing,
No more to offend Minister, Mitre, or Crown,
By Scribbling or Babbling, but to laugh and lie down;
To laugh at *K*—, *Henry Baskin*, and grim *Cock*,
And leave *—* to his Beads and *Pater Noster*;
On the following Condition, that they club and repay
His Damage, as here stated, by a certain Day.
And first, by his Books he can make it appear,
He had by Employment full a Thousand a Year,
With Perquisites numerous, and Bounties in store
To his Wife and his Daughter, worth Two Hundred more,
With Pen, Paper, Candles, Wax, Wafer, and Coal;
And various Contingents to be seen on his Roll;
These, if strictly computed, would be found to amount
To an Hundred or more, then add these to Account,
They will make in the Whole, since the Day of Reduction,
Two Thousand or near, with a trifling Deduction;
All which in his Pocket might safely have been,
Or fairly spread out on *Dunman's Green*,
If that vapouring *Seab*, * *Lord G*— do you call him,
Had not laid a Trap to catch, vex, and to mail him.

A

For

* An Expression in the Ad—ter of May 3d.

For lost Flesh by Fretting, and Time sadly mis-spent,
 And slight Defalcations by Neglect in his Rent;
 To thousands of *Ad—sers* sent gratis by Post,
 And Bonds to the Printers to repay them their Cost;
 To Breath spent in trifling and fruitless Debate,
 Many Thumps too and Scratches to rouse his dull Pate,
 For Boot Soals and Shoes, and Leather lost from his A—
 And various Disasters in the Scenes of this Farce;
 For Wagers laid many that he would be replac'd,
 Like all to be lost now, and his Honour disgrac'd;
 For Venison and Claret, he might drank and have eat,
 And the Good might have learn'd from the Wise and the
 Great;
 For anonymous Letters to scar *Casaphas*,
 And superfluous Pains to prove himself an As;
 For Drams, Drink, and Bonfires to raise Mobs and Riots,
 To bully proud Courtiers, and extol the Pa—triot;
 For Porters and Postage and various Expences,
 The Loss of his Credit, and the Loss of his Senses,
 All which must be valu'd, if they mean to be civil,
 To save Body from *Bedlam* or Soul from the Devil.
 If for these he's requited he'll retire to his Manor,
 Or stay here and fight under the *Marquis's* Banner.

SINCE it hath so pleas'd the Lord in the Course of his
 wonderful Providence, what some Time ago seriously
 predicted, as an Event probable and then thought surely to
 succeed, looking upon the Case of our martyr'd Patriots and
 that of the three principal Men of the *Jews*, who refused
 to worship *Nebuchadnezzar's* Golden Image, * to be so
 nearly parallel or similar, concluding, as every one natural-
 ly must have expected, that as these three Men, after stand-
 ing the severe Trial of the Fiery Furnace, were soon after-
 wards promoted to the Honour of the three principal Posts
 in the Kingdom; so also, that our discarded Patriots would
 surely before this, so long Time as has since elapsed after
 the giving out of that Prophecy, have been taken in, hath
 not yet succeeded and come to pass; it behoves me parti-
 cularly at this Time to recommend to the Public the Case
 of one of the Chiefs of our suffering Heroes.

* See Truth against Craft.

It is surprising, to me indeed quite unaccountable, that the Public should so universally misapprehend, as I hear and am informed they do, the Design and Meaning of an Advertisment, if it may be called an Advertisment, printed and dispersed through this Town on *Wednesday* the 4th Instant.

Taking it as if meant in Banter, and in Ridicule of the worthy Knight and valorous Champion of our Cause, when as in Truth it was a serious Thing, and had none other real View or Meaning than what is expressed, and the Words fairly import, and may be construed to convey to every sensible Reader when properly understood. *But in order to render contemptible and odious, the illiberal Jokes of that Set of Men,* it can be only necessary and must be sufficient that I, once the professed and sworn Enemy of that Gentleman, bred up, I thank my Great Creator, in Principles quite opposite to what he ever professed or knew till of late, do hereby most solemnly, and from my own certain Knowledge, declare and testify, that that Paper was in Fact penned and drawn up by the Gentleman himself, the identical Person whose Name in a Cypher it bears, and whose egregious Qualities and most incomparable Accomplishments, it so justly, so curiously, and so elegantly describes.

And for the clearer Evident and Manifestation of this most important Truth, so important I mean to the Gentleman himself, who has suffered so long and so much for his *bold* and courageous Adherence to Truth and to Right, two Things only are requisite to be considered, and I desire may be well attended to.

First, that a Description so particular, and so exactly suited, wherein there is not one wrong or crooked Line, every Feature so finely drawn, and where the Colouring is so exquisite, could not possibly have come from any other than a *Writer of such distinguished Merit as the Author of the Pamphlet, intituled, The Proceedings of the Hon. H— of C—s vindicated.* * For who, in the Name of Goodness I would ask, except that Gentleman, could write with such easy, flowing, and at the same time concise, Elegance? Who but himself could possibly have come at the Knowledge of the several Matters therein mentioned? *Can any thing be more monstrous in Reasoning than to suppose that any other should have Sagacity enough to see as it were into the most confined Recesses of the Man's Heart, wrapped up under so many Foldings and intricate Doublings, and then*

A 2

with

* See Truth against Craft.

with such Dexterity to turn it, as it were, inside out, and expose it to the View and Admiration of the World? Singularly lamentable would the Event be to all modern Patriots, if such Knowledge could be ordinarily come at. How ridiculous, how contemptible would the very best of us in that Case appear? You, kind Reader know, as well as you know the Intentions of your own Hearts, that the Thing is impossible; and you may safely take my Word for it, since I was never but once trapped in affirming false Facts, || that the Paper referred to was the Gentleman's own, and seriously intended for the very End and Purpose owned and avowed by him in it.

Besides (2) the Reason of it to me is most conspicuous, and I am astonished that Others did not at once comprehend the just Apology that might so obviously, and may so reasonably be made for the Gentleman's acting in the Manner at this critical Juncture. I am willing to make some Allowance for the Misconstruction of the Publick, because every body did not then know the Situation that respectable Gentleman was in, nor how unfortunately he was circumstanced: He had it should be remembered, for remembered it will be to his Honour, laboured long and greatly in the godly Work of Reformation: He came early, as I may aptly apply the Words, *into the Vineyard, and bore the Burden and Heat of the Day*, insomuch that it is to me yet, at the very Moment I am writing, a Doubt, whether our Faction could ever have got a Head, to such a Head as to be formidable to those we meant to bully, but for his Labours: It is indisputably plain to the Eye of every honest Reasoner, that if he had not opened the Press in Town at the same Time that I let loose the Pulpits in the Country, if we had not jointly played off those two great Engines by which all the glorious *Transactions* from 1641 to 1648 were so successfully transacted: The mighty Things that have since been brought about could not have happened; the Kingdom could not have been torn and distracted as it has been, Patriot Clubs could not have been formed or kept up. You, our trusty Friends of the Populace had got no Money for Ale or Bonfires, nor our Chiefs the sweet Incense of your Huzza's, Things might have proceeded quietly, the Session might have ended quietly, and every Man might have been busy at his proper Calling, nay, and some will have it, and I suspect have some Reason in what they say, some Gentlemen might have kept their Places,

and
|| See Facts and Observations on the Fate of the Linen Bill.

and been yet in a Condition of serving us, tho' they perhaps never meant it. When you have considered these accumulated Advantages, and many more that might be added, *I must desire the kind Readers to lay their Hands honestly upon their Hearts, and please to prepare honestly to pronounce, though it should refute all the Purpose of what they have said or thought*: Whither this great, this wonderful Man, apprehending himself to be trepanned and bubbled: Seeing, most clearly seeing, that he was despised, and in Danger of being quite rejected and thrown off by those who had led, and who had gone along with him from the Beginning, was not right, or could reasonably be blamed for casting about, contriving and trying, how and by what Means he might get the Start and the Whip-hand of *these false Brethren*, who had so often promised (and in whom his unsuspecting innocent Soul) had so confided, that they would never leave him, nor forsake him, until they had restored him to his pristine, or to a better and higher State: For I must here, candid Reader, beg Leave to inform you of what it seems you did not then rightly apprehend, and it will at the same Time shew you *what it is to meddle with a Matter you either know nothing of, or are obliged absurdly to represent*: That these same Leaders and Friends had in Fact contrived, and were met together at a certain Day, in a certain House, on or near *Stephen's Green*, to consult and advise, without the Privy or Consent, or Concurrence, of this your (perhaps upon the Whole) as I now begin to suspect (for black Men I find have often black Hearts) only worthy and indefatigable Member of the whole Gang: What Part they were to act, what Concessions would be proper to be made, and what Terms they might wisely and safely compound upon, for the healing of our sad intestine Divisions; a Thing, which his puny, but righteous and sound Stomach could not digest, as it is plain that nothing of greater Disservice to this Kingdom could ever happen, and which in the Sincerity of my Soul I pray God in Mercy to prevent until his Saints be rewarded for their Sufferings, by the Repeal of all *Test Laws*, and the Downfal of the Scarlet Whore of *Babylon*, the intire Extirpation of Prelacy, out of this Land. In this Situation, I say then, when he saw the Harvest of his Labours just ripe for gathering, going to be snatched out of his Hands, and the Laurels placed upon the Brows of others, which he alone deserved to wear. For it is now well known that such a Meeting there was,

whereto

where to he was neither called nor invited, and where, after eagerly running, when apprised of the same, he was refused Admittance, and kept waiting in a lower Chamber for a considerable Time, till they had finished their Resolves, and were breaking up Council: Seeing, I say, himself treated with such bare-faced Ignominy, and perceiving how low he was fallen in the Opinion even of these Men, with whom he apprehended he stood highest: Was it to be wondered at, was he to be blamed for concerting Measures to serve himself without them? *Was it not high Time for this Gentleman to break off all Connexion and Communication with such Politics, and their Authors, as have already shed so baneful an Influence, both on his Sense, and his Simplicity of Spirit?* Besides, you are also to consider that this was the only Game he had left to play: He had no other Way to go to work: His extraordinary Modesty would not permit him to wait upon the Marquis in Person, and when a certain Person, whom I could name, had desired Leave to introduce two others to his E——y that they might speak for themselves, his Name was not so much as mentioned, nor any Regard had of him, more than if he had been a Tavern-boy or Porter.

What then in this forsaken Condition had he to do, or indeed could he do? *to work he is not able, to beg he is ashamed:* But fairly and bluntly above Board, and in the Face of the World to give in his Proposals. *You know kind Reader as well as you know the Intentions of your own Heart,* that he must have acted foolishly and imprudently, which in good Truth you cannot say he ever did; if he had chosen or acted any other Part, than what by his Advertisment you see he did: And Success which justifies all Schemes we have Reason to gather, and hopes to conclude, will in a little Time justify this also.

But because it is apprehended by many that this Gentleman's Merit has been rather over-rated, and that his Demands in the said Advertisment are too high, and more than due, this good Man intent on Peace, and resolved, (if by any Means he may) to retire and live privately and soberly the Remainder of his Days, thinks proper, and is advised by many Friends who still adhere to his Interests, (though God knows they are comparatively few to what they were some Fifteen Months ago) the Number of Free C——zens who first gave in their Names, and are still upon the List, having fallen off surprisngly, and dwindled away from Fifteen Hundred to Fifty, or less) to give in
here

here a second Proposal, which, upon more mature Deliberation, he is advised, will be thought more expedient for those concerned to comply with it: And of this before I conclude, I must say a Word or two to the Publick.

The extreme Modesty of this renowned Champion may be collected from his Manner of summing up, and stating his Account; for he has, you may see, *if you don't willfully stop your Eyes*, no more than generously hinted the Particulars by which he was a Loser, and might have been a Gainer; and for Compensation hath submitted every Article of the Account to the Discretion of his Betters, if so I ought to call them, in which I am not clear: And I must take the Liberty to add in his Behalf, that few Men in his Case, who had deserved so much, and who had got so little, would have been so mealy mouthed; but let the Articles however, I pray, be distinctly weighed one by one in a just Bailance; and at an Average they cannot be estimated at less than duple of the principal Sums first charged on the Heads of Salary and Perquisites, which will, *if I libel not the Multiplication Table*, make in the whole a Sum of 4000*l.* or thereabouts, or near hand; and if he is willing, as I am allowed to say in his Name, to accept of *Wilcox and Dawson's Notes*, of which I am well assured there are great Numbers in the Hands of the principal T--r of his M--y's *Treasury*, I do in my Conscience verily think, as there will be thereby a Saving of at least one third of the whole Sum to the Nation, by paying him in that manner, there would be great Cruelty, *as well as a Mixture of Absurdity, and total Perversion of that which is right*, in denying to comply with his Proposal.

In the Sight of those not used to tell out such Sums, it may appear Great, but God knows it is a poor Requital, and by no Means an equivalent for his long and many and faithful Services, for turning and twisting and winding so oft as Necessity and Affairs required, and the Humours of different Masters had prescribed; of which Services, if God spare me Health and Leisure, I mean soon to oblige my Readers with a just Detail, and most circumstantial Enumeration, which shall be extracted from those best and most unexceptionable Vouchers, the J--nals of the H-- of C---s, and his own acknowledged Writings and Works: *If any therefore Objection* lie against any Part of this Proposal, the Publick will be so kindly favourable, as to suspend its Judgment till the said Work appears, which is now forwarding with all the *Haste and Dispatch* that a Matter of such Importance, and that requires to be so very accurate, will bear.

There

There are two Sorts of People, *viz.* *Churls* and *Fakers*, who peradventure may object, and give in Allegations of this Sort, that being a *Sharer* in the Profits of the *U—l—A—r*, and getting Pence by selling his *Franks*, tho' at the low Price of three Pence *per Dozen*, and which it is true the lower Sort of People take off his Hands so fast that it gives him full Work for two Hours in the Day, his Case is not therefore so pitiable as it is here set forth to be: But the Answer to all such is most apparently obvious; that it is certain, that for a long time he wrought from a Principle of Generosity only, and for all his excellent Works never made to the Value of one Penny; if you except one new Shirt and Pocket Napkin he got from that ungrateful Rogue *P—W—* at his Wife's Funeral, and accidental Bowls of Punch from Free Cit—ns, and Beef Stakes, with the former of which tho' he has washed his Brains so oft, you see they still grow the fouler; and it was not till very lately, I do most solemnly assure the Reader, that he saw the Cloud gathering at the Hill behind his Shop, and ready to break upon him, that he ever thought of making a Penny by Trade; and Friends (if any he hath) will be so good as to consider, how small, and what is worse, how uncertain the Profits in that way are like to be; for, alas! I repeat it with Regret the Numbers of those who used to support us, are so dwindled, and Privilege being now unhappily out, if it were not that a Noble *U—* in his double Capacity hath generously indulged us at this Time with the Liberty of sending Adv—rs by Post under the Sanction of his Honoured Name, even that small Trade would have sunk, and could not have been carried on.

I have now no more to add, but my hearty Respects, and sincere Request to my good Readers to be thought seriously, as indeed I am, the Friend of this poor unfortunate Man.— So farewell.

N. B. As to the Sweet Flowers of Rhetorick scattered thro' this Letter, and marked in *Italick* Characters, they are, kind Reader, I assure you all my own, and may be found, if you will be at the Trouble of looking, in my *Opera Palmarium*, intitled, *Truth against Craft*. They have lost, I confess, of their Bloom and Beauty by being transplanted, but this is a Liberty assumed by all Authors, without ever being charged with *Plagiarism*, for which the Reader, if he have Mind or Leisure to look into any thing more than political Half-penny Papers, may consult *Thomasius de Plagio Literario*—who expressly says, that a Man may steal from himself.

